

how he in turn helped the young men who came to him when he became a teacher. How he took them into his home, raised funds for their support or to enable them to travel, how above all else he inspired them with a love of all phases of nature. From first to last the impression is made of the vigor of the man and the amount of detailed work he accomplished.

While the book is in general well written it is marred in places by crudity of expression, apparently literal translations from the Swedish. It would have helped in following the travels on the map if the names in the text and on the map had been spelled alike. There are reproductions of paintings of Linnaeus at different periods and of the homes he occupied. The book gives many facts never before published in English, is as complete as a biography can well be, but is especially valuable because of the way in which Linnaeus is made to live for the reader.

G. T. HASTINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 1923

This meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History. The program of the evening consisted of a lecture by Mr. Carl Bannwart on "Great Men and their Attitude toward Trees," which was copiously illustrated by beautiful lantern-slides and was accompanied by many quotations from ancient and modern literature.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 1923

The meeting of November 28 was held at the Museum of The N. Y. Botanical Garden.

Miss Helen M. Carr, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., was elected to membership.

The first paper on the scientific program was on "Viability of Date Pollen" by Dr. A. B. Stout. The date palm is dioecious and the practice of growing only a few of the staminate trees and making artificial pollinations has been in vogue for many centuries. For use in pollination the Arabs often keep the pollen for one or more years, sometimes it is alleged, for as much as

fifteen years, and the practice of thus keeping the pollen from one year to another has been adopted by some of the date-growers in southern California and Arizona. During a recent residence in California, Dr. Stout found that in nutrient media freshly gathered pollen germinated very freely but could secure no germinations with samples of one-year-old pollen. Pollen collected in February showed some germinations as late as April 28. Dr. Stout's paper will be published in the Journal of The New York Botanical Garden.

The second paper of the program was by Dr. H. A. Gleason on "A Virgin Hardwood Forest in Northern Michigan." Dr. Gleason gave a general account of the composition of the beech-maple forest of that region. Besides beech and sugar maple, the forest also has a small proportion of hemlock, yellow birch, basswood, and elm. The ground vegetation, which must be adapted to life in the dim light prevailing beneath the dense forest canopy, consists chiefly of seedlings of these trees, with a hundred or more herbaceous plants and shrubs. A detailed account of the structure of this forest association will be published elsewhere.

Mrs. N. L. Britton exhibited a remarkable fasciated stem of *Ailanthus* and some leaves of the laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, brought in by Mrs. George C. Wheeler from a northwestern part of Manhattan Island, where the shrub apparently still persists in a natural state.

Dr. A. L. Gundersen spoke of noting on young *Phellodendron* trees in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden leaves in alternate whorls of three instead of the usual opposite arrangement.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary

MEETING OF DECEMBER II, 1923

The meeting of the above date was held at the American Museum of Natural History.

The program consisted of an address by Mr. Norman Taylor on "The Vegetation of Montauk," with lantern slide illustrations. An abstract furnished by the speaker follows:

The lecture dealt, in not much more than outline, with the region covered by the lecturer's paper which has been published

as the first part of volume two of the *Memoirs of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden*.

After an account of the early condition of the vegetation, as revealed by the agreements between the Indians and the first English settlers at Easthampton, considerable mention was made of the treeless condition of the peninsula, its grasslands, soils, and peculiar kettlehole topography.

The wind which blows at greater velocities and with greater annual movement at Montauk than at any other point on the Atlantic coast, was considered as the chief limiting factor, and some account of atmometer readings on exposed and sheltered parts of the area was given. It was shown that where trees do persist they do not capture grassland to windward, but nearly always do to leeward, where their growth in diameter is nearly twice as rapid as in exposed situations.

Actual transpiration figures are lacking, but it was suggested that further work on this point will be undertaken, with a view to the growing of selected plants in sealed containers, and getting hourly figures of water loss, together with instrumental records of the atmosphere, in all stages of the wind's velocity. This chiefly for the reason that such data are lacking, except for the experiments of Briggs and Shantz whose work was carried out under comparatively easy wind conditions, and for those of Leonard Hill on seedlings in England, where artificially induced wind of low velocity was tried. With winds of forty, fifty, and even sixty miles per hour, coupled with the usual midsummer drought, the effect on transpiration is profound. There are evidences everywhere at Montauk of this wind action, but instrumental proof of it is thus far lacking.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary

MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 1924

The meeting of the above date was held at the American Museum of Natural History.

The following were elected to membership:

Miss Anna G. Eggerdink, New York.

Mr. Fred C. Metcalfe, Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Two resignations were accepted, those of Mr. H. Nordheim and Prof. W. C. Twiss, both now removed to California.

The program of the evening was the usual one of the annual business meeting, consisting chiefly of reports of officers for the past year and election of officers for the ensuing year.

The Secretary, Dr. M. A. Howe, reported that fifteen regular meetings of the Club had been held during the year with a total attendance of 338, an average of about 22.5 persons per meeting. 19 new members were elected in 1923; 8 members were lost, six by resignation and two by death. The present membership appears to be 293.

The Treasurer, Miss Mary L. Mann, reported gross receipts of \$4301.91, including a balance of \$379.45 brought over from 1922. Disbursements amounted to \$3359.38, leaving a cash balance of \$942.53, to which may be added undrawn interest amounting to \$154.36.

The endowment funds total \$3536.58, as at the end of the preceding year.

The Editor, Prof. A. W. Evans, reported that vol. 50 of the Bulletin contains 406 pages, exclusive of volume index, and 20 plates.

The Editor of *Torreyia*, Mr. George T. Hastings, reported the publication of six bimonthly numbers, aggregating 114 pages.

The Rev. Dr. H. M. Denslow, Honorary Custodian of the Local Herbarium of The N. Y. Botanical Garden, stated that accessions aggregating about 2,000 sheets of specimens had been received during the year. These and others are being arranged geographically by counties and alphabetically.

The chairman of the Field Committee, Mr. A. T. Beals, reported that 35 field meetings were held, with attendances ranging from 57 to 2, and averaging 12. Among the plants of unusual interest collected on these expeditions were two orchids, *Malaxis unifolia* in the Catskills near Meads and *Ophrys cordata* at Bushkill, Pa.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are given on the inside front cover of this issue.

Votes of thanks for services rendered were extended to the retiring Editor, Dr. Evans, and to the retiring Secretary, Dr. Howe.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary